

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

<\*>

Robert W. Warrington <\*>  
Petitioner,

v. <\*> Case Number: 1:06-cv-67  
(SLR)

<\*>

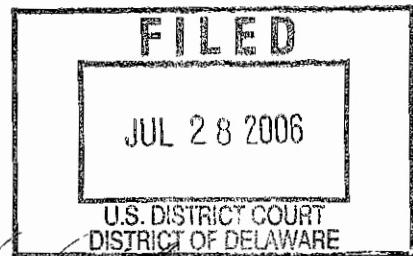
Carroll et al  
Respondents.

<\*> EVIDENTIARY HEARING REQUESTED

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PETITIONER'S TRAVERSE



*Robert W. Warrington* BD scanned

Dated: 7-26-06

Robert W. Warrington, pro se  
SBI# 00442182  
Delaware Correctional Center  
1181 Paddock Rd.  
Smyrna, DE 19977

TRAVERSE

Contrary to the respondent's claim, the petitioner, Robert "Wes" Warrington, and his brother, Andrew "Drew" Warrington, were arrested on August 18, 2000. The brothers had been interrogated and subsequently released on August 14, 2000, and four days later were told that they must turn themselves in at Troop 3, which they promptly did.

Furthermore, the respondent has compounded the error made by the Delaware Supreme Court during its summation of the facts. Both claim that the brothers claim to have gained the upper hand as the fight proceeded up the stairs, away from the front door, as Mr. Pecco chased "Drew". The petitioner and his brother have always maintained that they only gained the upper hand after "Wes" attempted to call for help, downstairs, and that the only act of violence that occurred afterward was "Wes" kicking Mr. Pecco in the face out of anger and frustration and certainly not in cold blood.

But perhaps the most frightening error that both the Delaware Supreme Court and the respondents have made in summarizing the facts is this: They both state that "Drew" claimed to have dialed for help, when in fact "Wes" has always claimed and in fact did call for help by dialing "911". "Drew" has never made this claim. This is an example of just how unfamiliar they were with the facts of the case when this was written.

This is not simple error, but proof that this petitioner's claim has yet to receive adequate consideration.

Under the AEDPA, a federal court is not required to order a hearing where a petitioner has failed to develop the facts in state court. In such cases, the federal court accords a presumption of correctness to facts found by the state court, and need not hold any evidentiary hearing unless those fact are rebutted by clear and convincing evidence.

The facts are as follows: Mr. Warrington, also known as "Wes", was stripped of his clothing and held naked but for a thin sheet in a freezing cold concrete basement. "Wes" was then interrogated, at which time he expressed his ardent desire to not be returned to the freezing cold room, naked, while a lawyer was found. Transcripts of the audio tape do not record the event in its entirety, but a video tape is in existence which records the Detectives offering to provide the petitioner with clothing, leaving the room, then retuning without clothing and resuming the interrogation. These are the facts.

As to any promises made before the interrogation, regarding being allowed to leave afterward, the Detective whoescorted the petitioner has never been asked to testify. Also, in regards to the petitioner's claim of having been under the influence of marijuana at the time of the interrogation, the petitioner does not have the resources to substantiate them at this time.

The gravity of this case and the constitutional violations that are enclosed is such that unless remanded, this case will in the future be used as precedent for Detectives acting under the color of law to knowingly overbear the will of the interrogated to resist by stripping them of all clothing and breaking

the interrogated through the use of extreme temperatures. Statements acquired that way cannot be regarded as the product of a rational intellect and free will.

The Detectives had clothing available the entire time and yet chose to interrogate the petitioner as he was. This exhibits a knowledgable forthought by the police to aquirea statement without regard to the truthfulness or reliability of the statement. These tactics bring to mind the same tactics being used by the military in the holding camps in Cuba.

It is the respondent's opinion that this behavior is acceptable. Furthermore, the respondent is of the opinion that the Lower Court correctly applied the two-pronged standard set forth in Strickland by rüling that any percieveable errors made by trial counsel were mere trial strategy. The Respondent then goes on to claim that trial counsel's unprofessional errors played no part in the defendant pleading guilty. The petitioner did not plead guilty. The petitioner requested a trial in the hopes of being vindicated through the process of a fair adversarial system.

According to the respondent, trial counsel corrected his error in having failed to examine or have tested a key piece of evidence (Black Sweatshirt) before the trial by cross-examining the officer who had collected it.

The clothing removed from "Wes" at the scene was collected by an EMS Technician. This key piece of evidence was never tested and corroborates the petitioners account by displaying blood stains on the back. It is not unreasonable for the petitioner to expect trial counsel to examine and have tested key pieces of

evidence.

The respondent has stated that the petitioner's claim has been properly handled in the lower courts. The previous evidentiary hearing was adequate, and all subsequent claims are barred because trial counsel was found to be adequate and therefore raised all necessary grounds during trial. This in turn procedurally bars any claim that the petitioner has.

The petitioner cannot argue with the cold logic of that one. If the lower court wishes to prevent a case from being fully examined by a Federal Court, all that is necessary is for an evidentiary hearing to be held. Counsel for the defendant need not be provided, and any decisions made are final.

The only remedy for such a case is when clear evidence is provided.(App. 1).

How fortunate for the petitioner that such evidence is clear and on the record.

The claim can be summarized as such: The Constitution provides for effective assistance of counsel. The petitioner was represented by counsel who provided ineffective assistance by failing to suppress a clearly suppressable statement, failing to examine or have tested a key piece of evidence, as well as many other examples of errors that are against reasonable judgement. The trial, absent of these errors would have allowed the fact finders to make a decision free from the taint of a coerced confession and with all of the facts that the key piece of evidence would have provided.

The lower court then held an evidentiary hearing to determine

the existance of any merit to the petitioner's claim. At the evidentiary hearing, a room full of people with law degrees squared off against one lone petitioner who was forced to record new testimony for the public record devoid of any counsel. The lower court then made an unreasonable determination of facts in light of the evidence presented.

After exhausting all state remedies, the petitioner finds that this evidentiary hearing actually hampers his efforts to obtain an evidentiary hearing in the Court where Errors of Constitutional dimensions are properly heard. The only saving grace lies in the fact that the facts support the petitioner's claim and if ignored could change the scope of powers now possessed by officers acting under the color of law.

The petitioner and his brother have at all times maintained that they acted in self defense. Precedent for such action can be found in the case of State v. Robinson, 36 A.2d 27(App.2).

An Evidentiary hearing is requested by the petitioner wherein these claims and all of the others can be properly layed before this Honorable Court.

CONCLUSION

In light of the aforementioned, petitioner requests an evidentiary hearing be ordered so that the errors of Constitutional Dimensions can be further explored and redressed.

Dated: 7-26-06

Robert W. Warrington  
Robert W. Warrington, prose  
SBI # 00442182  
Delaware Correctional Center  
1181 Paddock Rd.  
Smyrna, DE 19977

H: While Jesse was at your house and this altercation, where was your wallet?

W: My wallet was in my back pocket.

H: In your back pocket.

H: Did he ever take your wallet out of your pocket during the altercation?

W: Never.

H: Never. So when we got your wallet at the scene, the check for \$700 should be in your wallet.

W: Yes. (sniff)

H: No way, it could be in his wallet.

W: Unless he had another check.

H: Where's your wallet now?

W: My wallet should be at the scene of the crime in my - back of the tan pants that was covered with his blood. (sniff, sniff)

H: Do you have any idea why Jesse would write a check out to you to make you cash it, instead of just writing a check out to himself and going and cashing it? Or just writing it out to anybody and going and cashing it?

W: Cause, he knows my Dad has a lot of money.

H: I don't think you understand my question. If I stole a check from you I could write it out to anybody and go cash it, okay. I don't know that I would write out one of your Dad's checks to you and then go force you to go cash it for me if I had stolen the check.

W: I'm the only person that's going to be able to get away with it.

H: Okay.

W: (sniff, sniff)

E: Can we pause the interview for a minute?

H: Yes.

H: We'll pause the interview for a moment.

H: It's about 10:42 p.m. (just hang on a second (can't understand rest) It's just my job to get to the truth that's all. Okay.

W: (can't hear)

H: Okay, we resume the tape. It's about 10:44 p.m.

H: Have you or your father reported these checks being stolen?

W: No - (can't understand rest of statement.)

H: Have you reported the house being broken into?

W: No sir.

H: Do you know when the house was broken into and these checks were taken?

W: No sir. My Dad was assuming it was me.

H: So there's been no - no sign of forced entry into the home or anything that you know of?

W: The house is always unlocked.

H: The house is always unlocked.

W: Sniff, sniff, sniff, sniff.

H: And when Jesse came over today he knocked on the door?

W: Drew says he heard him knock. I didn't hear him knock - I just saw him walk in.

H: You just saw him walk in.

H: How do you know Drew heard him knock or. . . .

W: Because, outside when we were talking to the paramedics, he said he heard him.

H: Okay.

E: If Drew heard him knock and Drew was upstairs, did Drew come down and open the door, when he heard the door?

W: No. Drew wasn't there when he walked in and heard Jesse talking and that's when he started to come downstairs.

H: Well, there's no lawyer here in the building. If you want a lawyer, I can provide you with a lawyer before I talk to you anymore. Am I – are you understanding what I'm saying?

W: I understand what you're saying. I would rather talk to you than go back down to that cell right now.

H: So how about if I tell you I won't put you back down in the cell. I'll put you somewhere else if you want a lawyer, okay.

W: I didn't do anything wrong, so it's fine with me if we can just keep on going.

H: I just want to make sure that you understand that. Don't say you don't want a lawyer just because you don't want to go down somewhere where you're uncomfortable, okay. If you want a lawyer, then you can have a lawyer. You know, don't base it on whether or not you're going somewhere and you want it to go faster. I just want to know, you know. You said you wanted to talk to me.

W: I will gladly talk to you guys. I have nothing to hide.

H: And you don't want a lawyer here with you right now?

W: If a lawyer was here, it would just seem like I'm, I'm guilty. I'm certainly not guilty. So let's just keep on going answering the questions. I do not need a lawyer.

H: All right. You don't want a lawyer?

W: No.

H: Okay. I just want to make sure that you understand that.

W: (sniff, sniff, sniff)

E: We've talked a lot, we've spent a lot of time talking about what actually happened tonight or today with your altercation with Jesse and all, but let's talk a little bit more about the, the checks. The only thing about the checks is, you know, at this point why hide anything with the checks? I mean if you stole the checks from your father in order to pay him off, it doesn't really make any sense at this point for you not to just tell us that.

W: But, I didn't steal those checks. It was clearly out of the blue when I saw him – for him to hand me a check that was written out to me.

E: I tell you the thing that I am having a problem with here is – you owe this guy money from three or four years ago.

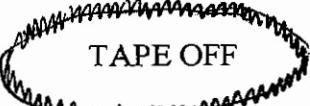
W: Do you think this is bad -- that I'm talking to you like this without my lawyer?

H: That's your choice. Whether or not its good or not.

W: I have nothing to hide whatsoever.

E: Well -- we need to uh take a break from the interview, because uh, the Trooper here at Troop 7 needs to utilize the Intoxilyzer Machine that sits right behind you. But before we leave this interview room, the comment that you just made, we need to make absolutely certain that you understand your rights and that you want to talk to us, okay? Before we go any further. All right.

H: Okay, I had to turn the tape over to Side B. It stopped sometime during the interview on Side A. The time right now is about 11:05 p.m. On Side B, we are going to stop the tape to take a break. Another officer needs to use the room for a moment.

  
TAPE OFF

H: Okay, we will resume the interview. It is about 11:18 p.m. Wes, do you still want to talk to -- myself and Detective Evans?

W: Yes sir.

H: Okay. Do you want a lawyer to be here with you right now?

W: Do I have a lawyer?

H: Well, I read you the Miranda earlier, did you ask me that question?

W: I'll try not to tie up the process here \_\_\_\_\_ more time. I don't feel like sitting in that cold concrete cell in this sheet \_\_\_\_\_ I want someone to help me out sir.

H: You have to make the decision as to whether or not you want a lawyer here or not. That's your choice.

W: I have nothing to hide.

H: You have nothing to hide.

H: And that means that you don't want a lawyer here right now?

W: Unless there's a lawyer in the building (can't understand)

H: He needed help?

W: That's the point when he started \_\_\_\_\_ I looked at him and said, "shut the fuck up" and kicked him and he fell and was, "Why are trying to kill me? And I was - "Why did you try to kill me?"

H: And, at that point he was dying?

W: (crying) And, at that point he was definitely dying. I got up and I went and I checked on the phone and couldn't get the phone and there was nothing; then the phone rang and it was the state police again. I answered it, but I got so scared (can't understand).

H: What was your reasoning in the beginning that \_\_\_\_\_ just you and your brother

W: crying - (can't understand) what would happen if the cops got involved - this person come into my house and (can't understand) Everybody talks about that cell at Troop 7 and nobody I know is going to stop in there wrapped in a sheet like this. It is so cold - very little \_\_\_\_\_ sniff. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

H: Is everything you told me today, the truth?

W: Yes sir.

H: Is there anything you need to add or change from what you told me?

W: (can't hear)

H: Okay. We will stop the interview. It is approximately 11:34 p.m.

Key Codes:

W = Robert W. (Wes) Warrington

H = Detective Robert A. Hudson

E = Detective John R. Evans

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ATLANTIC REPORTER, 2d/SERIES

[4, 5] A witness for the defendant was asked whether or not prior to August, 1940, from her observation, Mrs. Armstrong had any love whatsoever for Mr. Armstrong. She answered that Mrs. Armstrong had none. The finding discloses neither the extent of the observations nor the time when they were made. It is true that the modern tendency is to liberalize the rules governing the admission of evidence of this character and we have approved this tendency in principle (MacLaren v. Bishop, 113 Conn. 312, 155 A. 210), but we have repeatedly said that the trial court has discretionary powers as to its admission. (Ward v. Conn. 315 A. 155; Spencer's Appeal, 77 Conn. 638, 643, 60 A. 289; Richmond v. Norwich, 96 Conn. 582, 595, 115 A. 1.) From the very brief excerpt in the findings we cannot say that the trial court abused its discretion in excluding the statement of the witness as to whether Mrs. Armstrong had any love "whatever" for Mr. Armstrong strong.

[4, 5] A witness for the defendant was asked whether or not prior to August, 1940, from her observation, Mrs. Armstrong had any love whatsoever for Mr. Armstrong. She answered that Mrs. Armstrong had none. The finding discloses neither the extent of the observations nor the time when they were made. It is true that the modern tendency is to liberalize the rules governing the admission of evidence of this character and we have approved this tendency, in principle (MacLaren v. Bishop, 113 Conn. 312, 155 A. 210), but we have repeatedly said that the trial court has discretionary powers as to its admission. (A. 114; Conn. 315, 155 A. 210; Spencer's Appeal, 77 Conn. 638, 643, 60 A. 289; Richmond v. Norwich, 96 Conn. 582, 595, 115 A. 1.) From the very brief except in the finding, we cannot say that the trial court abused its discretion in excluding the statement of the witness as to whether Mrs. Armstrong had any love "whatever." For, Mr. Armstrong, strong.

**3. Homicide** ◁ 119

In repelling or resisting an assault, no more force may be used than is necessary for the purpose; and if person attacked does use in his defense more force than is necessary, he becomes the aggressor.

**4. Homicide** ◁ 18(1)

Ordinarily, one who is attacked, even if attack is of such character as to create in his mind a reasonable belief that he is in danger of death or great bodily harm, is under duty to retreat if he can safely do so, or to use such other reasonable means as are within his power to avoid killing his assailant.

**5. Homicide** ◁ 117

One may not take the life of another even in exercise of right of self-defense unless there are no other reasonably available means of escape from deadly or grave bodily harm.

**Homicide** ◁ 118(3)

weigh with nicely the question whether such other means as tort or taking life would answer the purpose.

**1. Homicide**  $\ominus$  109  
In homicide prosecution, when defendant has been disarmed or otherwise disabled, **§ 8. Homicide**  $\ominus$  116(5) held, <sup>1944</sup> that defendant will not be justified in killing his assailant after the assailant has been disarmed or otherwise disabled.

In manslaughter prosecution, when defense of self-defense is established to satisfaction of jury, the defense is absolute and entitles defendant to a verdict of acquittal.

**2. Criminal law**  $\ominus$  56(2)  
**3. Homicide**  $\ominus$  151(3)

In manslaughter prosecution, the burden of proof on issue of self-defense is on the defendant, but if on the whole state of evidence the prosecution does not sustain burden resting on it to establish guilt of defendant beyond a reasonable doubt, defendant should be acquitted.

Reasonably have been obviated by less violent means.

**4. Homicide**  $\ominus$  217(5)(a)

Ordinarily one, even in his own home, will not be justified in killing his assailant after the assailant has been disarmed or otherwise disabled.

In determining whether defendant charged with manslaughter had succeeded in so disabling assailant that defendant was no longer in danger of death or suffering great bodily harm, jury could consider sadness of the attack, respective ages of parties, and that person suddenly and violently wounded thereby may not reasonably be supposed to retain the presence of mind, calmness and composure necessary to

tends and endeavors by violence or sudden means of escape from death or great bodily harm... But here the defendant, who attacked by the deceased with a deadly weapon, remains that he defendant was in his home. Where one is violently attacked in his own home by another who apparently intends to kill him or do him grievous bodily injury, he need not retreat or take any steps to get away from his assailant, but may stand his ground and oppose force with force even to the extent of killing his assailant, provided that is necessary for his own safety... But having in mind that the right of self-defense rests upon real or apparent necessity, taking the life of another is not excusable if the danger could reasonably have been obviated by less violent means; and, ordinarily, one even in his own home, will not be justified in killing his assailant after the latter has been disarmed or otherwise disabled; for, if, thereafter he kills his assailant, the facts are not in dispute; and the question before you is a narrow one: In the circumstances shown, the defendant having seized the hand of the deceased in which was held the knife or dagger, had he succeeded in so disabling the deceased that he was no longer in danger of death or suffering further great bodily harm? In determining this question the jury should consider the suddenness of the attack made upon the defendant by the deceased, their respective ages, and should keep in mind that a person suddenly and violently attacked by a deadly weapon and actually tacked by the deceased, thereby, may not reasonably be supposed to retain the presence of mind, shown, the defendant, as a reasonable man, weighed with nicely, the question whether some other means short of taking life would answer the purpose; and if the jury would be satisfied that in the circumstances stated, the defendant, as a reasonable man, was justified in the belief that he was in danger of death or of suffering further great bodily harm at the hands of the deceased, the defendant should be acquitted.

**STATE OF MISSOURI-KANSAS PIPELINE CO.**  
30 A.D. 1939  
**STATE ex REL. DIXON v. MISSOURI-KAN-** plained reasons of Mr. Frank J. Dixon, attorney for the State, at a directors' meeting of  
**MISSOURI-KANSAS PIPELINE CO.**

Certificate of Service

I, Robert W. Warrington, hereby certify that I have served a true  
And correct cop(ies) of the attached: Petitioner's Traverse  
upon the following  
parties/person (s):

TO: Office of the Clerk  
United States District Court  
844 N. King St., Lockbox 18  
Wilmington, DE 19801-3570

TO: Elizabeth R. McFarlan  
Deputy Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
820 N. French Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
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BY PLACING SAME IN A SEALED ENVELOPE, and depositing same in the United  
States Mail at the Delaware Correctional Center, Smyrna, DE 19977.

On this 26 day of July, 2006

Robert W. Warrington

Legal Mail

INM Robert W. Washington  
SBI# 00442182 UNIT V

DELAWARE CORRECTIONAL CENTER

1181 PADDOCK ROAD

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